President’s Report

The role of a National Council Member isn’t always an easy one. AILDM’s Board members each bring different strengths and passionate causes to the board. This is what makes it possible to achieve so much and as a voluntary collective we aim to stay focused on delivering common goals for our membership.

The current National Council should be very proud of what they have achieved in their term and the legacy they have created. We can all come up with ideas and initiatives, but if we don’t have the commitment, passion and focus to deliver, great things are not achieved and our members don’t see the benefit.

This report is a snap shot of some of the great activities and results that have been achieved by the National Council. I am sure as you look through it you will realise and appreciate how hard our Board members have worked in 2015. In addition to the many achievements and activities detailed we have also achieved record membership on a national basis and reached our goal of 100 student members ensuring AILDM is connecting and engaging with our future designers. Working with our editor, Louise McDaid, we have constantly reviewed Landscape Outlook and now have a national journal looking better than ever.

The redesign of our website has delivered greater search capability and marketing opportunities for AILDM and its members. Through links from the website to facebook and our blog we have been able to provide up to date reports on member activities and follow their progress at events like the Chelsea Flower and Garden Show.

We have provided unique opportunities for our members to exhibit and participate at events such as MIFGS, the hidden Design Festival, Royal Easter Show and the Chelsea Flower and Garden Show. AILDM members showed great unity and support when fellow member Ross Uebergang needed that final bit of help to exhibit at the Japan Garden and Flower Show. Not only have our members participated at these events, many of them have received prestigious awards. At MIFGS and the Horticultural & Gardening Festival our
Victorian members set a new standard in how to demonstrate to potential clients the benefits of using a professional landscape designer.

AILDM is now moving into an exciting new era with a new Board elected, the first of our Masterclasses about to be held, and planning for not one, but two, hidden Design Festivals already underway.

So in summary, an organisation is only as good as the people that form it. It’s the values those people bring, the respect for each other and the support and encouragement that they give, that makes this association and industry great. People volunteering in these roles don’t focus on what is in it for them, although being on the board is incredibly rewarding - they think of the collective and that’s the values we as AILDM members hold and should never let go of.

Thank you for your support during my time as President and as a committee member. I have very much enjoyed working with you all.

I wish the new National Council well, you will bring your own ideas, and you will bring your individual passion, but always remember you will find strength in the collective. As your outgoing President and as a long standing member of this Institute I thank you and look forward to new and exciting times ahead.

Steve Warner
AILDM President
20th Anniversary Celebration

On Friday 13 February 2015, AILDM members, past members, AILDM student members and friends of AILDM gathered together at the Hyde Park Barracks to celebrate AILDM's 20th year as a Professional Institute. The cocktail party was held in this historic location as it was here twenty years ago that AILDM was launched. The night despite the intermittent showers was an outstanding success with many old friends and colleagues catching up and set the scene for a year of celebrations to mark this milestone in AILDM's history.
National Landscape Design Awards

AILDM members showcased their design skills in the Institute’s 2015 Landscape Design Awards with a record number of entries being received. The challenge of judging the entries was met with great care and consideration by Arthur Lathouris, Arno King and John Rayner. AILDM extends its thanks and appreciation to them for their crucial role in the competition.

Congratulations to all award winners.

Allan Correy Award for Design Excellence

- Steve Taylor, C.O.S Design

Residential Design under $50,000

- **Gold Award** - Jean-Clement Printemps, *SpringGreen Landscapes*
- **Gold Award & Best in Category** – Matt Cantwell & Robert Finnie, *Secret Gardens of Sydney*

Residential Design $50,000 - $150,000

- **Silver Award** – Matt Cantwell, *Secret Gardens of Sydney*
- **Gold Award** – Aaron Worth, *Utopia Landscape Design*
- **Gold Award** – Matt Cantwell, Mark Curtis & Robert Finnie, *Secret Gardens of Sydney*
- **Gold Award & Best in Category** – Adam McDonald & Ben Skiperdene, *Impressions Landscape Design*
Residential Design $150,000+

- **Silver Award** – Steve Taylor, C.O.S Design
- **Silver Award** – Aaron Worth, Utopia Landscape Design
- **Gold Award** – Matt Cantwell & Asher Cole, Secret Gardens of Sydney
- **Gold Award & Best in Category** – Steve Taylor, C.O.S Design

Commercial Design < $100,000

- **Gold Award & Best in Category** – Jennifer Stone, etch Architects

Commercial Design $100,000+

- **Gold Award & Best in Category** – Daniel Kavanagh, Fiona Temple & George Adams, The Gardenmakers

Plantscape Design

- **Silver Award** – Steve Taylor, C.O.S Design
- **Gold Award** – Adam McDonald & Ben Skiperdene, Impressions Landscape-Design
- **Gold Award & Best in Category** – Matt Cantwell & Asher Cole, Secret Gardens of Sydney
Landscape Management

- **Gold Award** & Best in Category – Jennifer Stone, *etch Architects*

Pro Bono

- **Silver Award** – Ross Uebang, *ROSS U Design*
- **Gold Award** & Best in Category – Nicola Cameron, *Pepo Botanic Design*
International Success

The year brought international success for two AILDM members.

Charlie Albone – Silver Gilt Award, Chelsea Flower Show

Charlie had always dreamed of exhibiting a large show garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower & Garden Show in London. In 2014 he volunteered his time to build an exhibit for Alan Titchmarsh. In 2015 he exhibited his own garden in a prime spot on the show ground. His team included the winner of the Chelsea competition for AILDM student members, Emma Sloan. Charlie’s garden was inspired by his father, who died when he was 17 years old. The space was a garden to meet with his father and tell him about his life since his passing. Charlie designed a space to celebrate life but to also be emotive and intimate.

To bring home a Silver Gilt Award with his first entry in the show was an incredible achievement for Charlie and his team. Charlie’s journey was filmed for a Foxtel special which aired in August.

Ross Uebergang – Silver Award, Japan Garden and Flower Show

The Japan Garden and Flower Show is the most prestigious flower show in Japan. In 2015 it introduced a new category entitled ‘International Residential Garden’. Designers from more than 30 countries were selected to exhibit gardens which met the brief ‘My Country, My Culture’. Ross was one of only two designers selected to represent Australia and received a Silver Award for his entry.

Ross’s ‘Tea Garden’ design captured Australia’s place within Asia while using the image of a circle as a centering force of being. He envisaged the Tea Garden as a place to slow down and reconnect with your people and country (land).
The Awards evening held on Friday, 23 October was the culmination of the special events celebrated in AILDM’s 20th anniversary year. The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) in The Rocks, Sydney was chosen as a unique and exciting venue befitting the occasion.

Held in the upper floor function area of the MCA, with panoramic views of Sydney's iconic harbour and its buildings, the scene was set for a memorable night. The event brought together members and guests from several States and was expertly compered by Karen Smith.

The winning designs were inspiring and the opportunity to network with designers and industry supporters invaluable.
hidden Design Festival

hidden Design Festival 2015 was a celebration of outdoor design – opening a range of usually private designer courtyards, rooftops and gardens over just one weekend. The festival was launched at a Twilight Garden Party held in the garden of AILDM member, Michael Bates.

In 2015, its second year, hidden established itself as NSW’s premier garden design event. A sell-out event weeks before it was held in March the festival showcased a diverse range of outdoor spaces created by some of Sydney’s best known and award winning landscape designers as well as new and emerging designers.

AILDM is enormously grateful to the generous owners who opened their usually private spaces for hidden. We are also grateful and extend thanks to the many landscape designers who gave freely of their time and energy in preparing for the weekend, and Michael Bates for the hospitality he extended at the twilight event.

The hidden design Festival raised $17,000 for the renovation of the courtyard garden at the Children’s Hospital, Randwick. AILDM is continuing its association with this project with AILDM designers now assisting with the redesign of the garden.

The first Brisbane hidden Design Festival is now being planned for March 2016, to be followed by the NSW festival in April 2016.
Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS)

In March 2015 AILDM hosted the first Design Clinic at MIFGS. The advisory clinic played to the strengths of AILDM’s membership of consultants and designers and provided opportunities for individual members to market themselves as members of a national professional organisation.

MIFGS attendees could pre-book a consultation and with plans of their garden layout in hand seek advice from an AILDM member.

The clinic was an outstanding success setting a new model of how to promote the skills of AILDM members and enhance the understanding of the public in regard to the benefits of using a qualified designer.

In addition to AILDM’s presence at the clinic a number of members participated in the Garden Design awards at MIFGS.

**AILDM’s congratulations go to Members:**

Nathan Burkett, Nathan Burkett Design, ‘Equilibrium’ – Gold Show Garden & The Mark Bence Construction Award

Christian Jenkins, Landscape Design Group, Beyond Blue Wellness Garden - Silver Show Garden Award

Brett Robinson, Acre Studio, ‘Avant-Garden’ – 3rd Place, Landscaping Victoria Boutique Garden Award

Clare Mesenburg, co-designer ‘Urban Oasis’ – 2nd Place, Achievable Gardens
CPD – Continuing Professional Development

AILDM members are committed to continual improvement in their businesses, as well as staying at the forefront with their skills and knowledge. In a new initiative launched in 2014, members are able to register to apply for recognition as a Certified Practising Member through the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program.

Members participating in the program are required to meet skills/knowledge improvement targets each year. It ensures that maintaining up to date knowledge and an awareness of industry developments becomes an on-going part of their landscape design business. The program is structured so that all members, whether they are in a major city or remote area, can achieve the outcomes required.

Recognition was given to the first AILDM members to meet the requirements of the program when they renewed their membership in 2015. Those members can now call themselves Certified Practising Members and use the CPD logo on their business material.
Student Competitions

Students of landscape design are the future of Australia’s landscape industry and are encouraged by AILDM to enter competitions to challenge their emerging design skills, and to attend AILDM events to network with established designers. AILDM provided three opportunities in 2015 for students to demonstrate their abilities.

National Student Design Competition

In 2014 students had been given a brief for the design of a garden for an Australian family. The brief for this competition was to design a front and rear garden for a young family on a difficult shaped site. It was an interesting and challenging brief which the winners tackled in different ways. Both winners presented their finished designs to a high standard, they fulfilled the client's brief and clearly resolved the sites levels.

The winners of the competition were announced in April 2015.

AILDM congratulates:

Ricky Cole – First Place & winner of the Allan Correy Award for Excellence

Sam Kay – Second Place
The Chelsea Challenge

In January 2015 the AILDM Chelsea Challenge provided a unique opportunity for student members to enter a competition with the prize being to help create Charlie Albone’s garden for the Royal Horticultural Society’s (RHS) Chelsea Flower & Garden show in 2015, further their skills in a truly unique learning experience, and have all their flights, accommodation and living expenses covered by the AILDM Travel Grant.

The competition required students to submit a design showing through their design of a 10m x 10m space what they are all about. The finalists then attended a day at Alpine Nurseries where they were required to undertake practical assignments.

The winner, Emma Sloan, was announced at AILDM’s 20th Anniversary Celebration on 13 February, 2015.

NSW TAFE Easter Show Challenge

This challenge covered the process of preparing a landscape design for a display garden. Students were required to design a garden to be displayed at the 2015 Sydney Royal Easter Show site. The winners were required to work with landscape construction students to get their designs constructed on site at the show. The Sydney Royal Easter Show is the largest event in Australia with approximately 900,000 people visiting each year.
The challenge provided many educational opportunities for TAFE NSW students; design, teamwork, networking with industry, problem solving and project management.

AILDM extends its thanks to the NSW RSHSA for their financial support, and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, and TAFE colleges for their support and commitment to this competition.

AILDM Congratulates the winners Kirsten Abrahall & Peta Frullani
AILDM Connect – Connecting Students & Graduates with Potential Employers

Through AILDM Connect students and recent graduate members have been given the opportunity to submit their profiles for consideration by AILDM members who may be seeking to employ staff or offer mentoring opportunities.

Students and graduates submit their profiles which are then seek to members in their respective states in a special edition of AILDM’s newsletter. Members interested in making contact with one of those profiled can do so through AILDM’s Administrator.

Several student and graduate members have been successful in obtaining employment by this means this year. In the words of one successful candidate:

‘My experience with AILDM Connect has been fantastic, obtaining job interviews as well as securing a position as Assistant Landscape Designer with a professional company.

As a Post Graduate I think that this chance offered by AILDM Connect to find work as a Landscape Designer, gives students and Post Graduates the ability to work with a recognized and professional Landscape company. As well as advertising their abilities to prospective employers, it is also a great way to become involved in the industry.’
AILDM Masterclasses

A new initiative in 2015 was the AILDM Masterclasses, a series of classes for student members giving them the opportunity to learn from experienced designers. The classes, to be held in the designers’ offices, will take students through the stages of the design process from concept to completion.

Classes were limited to 3 students per class to maximise the learning opportunity. The first students were selected for the Sydney Masterclasses at the Design Awards Presentation Evening on 23 October. To be eligible the students had to be present at the evening. Students for the Melbourne Masterclasses were selected at their end of year event on 3 December. Students will also be selected for classes in Brisbane.

Our thanks are extended to AILDM members Matt Cantwell, Nicola Cameron, Matt Leacy, Nathan Burkett and their staff for sharing their knowledge with students in this way.
Seminars & Events NSW

Alpine Nurseries

Alpine Nurseries hosted a series of seasonal tours in 2015 for AILDM members at their 30 Dural acre site. The tours proved popular with members having to book early to secure a place as numbers were limited to 20.

The tours, hosted by Alpine’s Operations Manager – Craig Rich, focussed on:

- What’s looking good then and for the upcoming season
- What to look for when selecting plants in pots
- Ideas for difficult locations
- What’s involved in growing advanced plants
- New plant varieties

Tour of Junglefy's One Central Park and the University of Technology's Vertical Gardens

Junglefy is one of Australia’s leading living architecture specialists. Jock Gammon, the founder of Junglefy along with wife Hanna, took AILDM members on a guided tour of two of his high profile green wall projects.

At One Central Park in Chippendale Junglefy worked with Patrick Blanc to deliver the world’s tallest vertical garden at 130m high. The green wall installation methodology was a first of its kind anywhere in the world. 383 different species of plants are used, 35,200 in total.
Directly across the road at Building 10, University of Technology, a green wall has been installed as part of the university’s buildings upgrade program. Working with Architectus and TRACT, Junglefy created a beautiful outlook for what would otherwise have been an ugly wall. It is 145m² in size and made up of 9,280 plants.

This tour, limited to 12 people, was so popular it sold out not once but twice with the second group scheduled to view the gardens in early 2016.

Sustainable House & Garden Tour

David Burn’s opened his sustainable house and garden for a tour by AILDM members in May. The house was built in 2007 to sustainable principles resulting in an impressive home that increases the biodiversity of local flora and fauna while minimising the impact on the environment.
AILDM extends its thanks to David for providing this inspiring opportunity for its members.

**Business Basics Seminar For Landscape Designers**

A capacity audience attended the AILDM seminar on Business Basics held in Sydney.

Anna Turner, an expert in landscape business management and estimating spoke on Setting up a Design Brief and Fee Proposal template; and Fee structuring, including different methods of charging, overheads, and how to work out your perfect fee.

Matthew Lye, a business advisor with Sydney Business, a part of the Business Enterprise Network, explained the services available to small businesses under Small Biz Connect and one of the essential must-do’s for all small businesses, the Business Plan.

Peter Freeman, Managing Director of Nationwide Insurance Brokers, discussed the necessity for liability, professional indemnity and business insurance, as well as protection for breaches of the Privacy Act.
Seminars & Events – Queensland

Round Table Meetings

Early morning coffee meetings have been held monthly for Queensland members and friends. A different café location has been chosen for each meeting to enable members from different areas to attend.

This opportunity has often been used to invite guests to speak on work they have undertaken on community projects and visit the site of the work done.

After a February breakfast meeting they travelled to Frew Park at Milton for a tour of this unique park with one of the project’s landscape architects.

This theme of being aware of, and involved in, community projects has been a strong theme of AILDM activities during the year.

Leacy Way Project

AILDM members and guests attended a seminar on the design and development of the extension to the Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens Legacy Way Project.

In June AILDM was a supporting partner of the SEE Sustainable Experience held in Brisbane. AILDM Director Tobias Volbert was a presenter at the event which showcased current sustainable products and solutions for designers to integrate into their products.
AILDM Director and passionate co-founder of the 7 Senses Foundation, Tobias Volbert, was a guest speaker at the Healthy Cities Conference in Melbourne. The aim of the Foundation is to imbed a vision amongst the community for civic spaces that actively improve the inclusion and well-being of all. Tobias has been a driving force behind the establishment of the 7 Senses Day in Brisbane, an annual event that temporarily transforms civic spaces into community focussed places.

**Outdoor Structures Seminar**

Eco Outdoor was the venue for AILDM’s August seminar. Guest speakers Ted Stubbersfield from Outdoor Structures Australia and Luke Dingle from Boral Concrete educated members on the technical aspects of constructing outdoor structures.

**Brisbane International Garden Show**

In October AILDM member Clare James was a member of the A & R landscape team which built a gold award winning entry for the first Brisbane International Garden Show at Strathpine. Clare helped design the entry ‘Backyard Evolution’ with A & R Evergreen owner Alistair Hutton.
Seminars & Events – Victoria

Field Trip to Sommerville & Cranbourne

In May AILDM members met at Somerville for a tour of the new growing site for Botanix Plant supply where they learnt about the production of good quality trees and what the new Australian Tree Standards meant for the industry. They then travelled to Seaford to view the extensive range of pots and planters supplied by Martin Kellock.

The day concluded with a tour of the Australian Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne and an informative session on the design process from inspiration to realization.

Seminar – Design Contracts & Fees

In July members had the opportunity to tour Eco Outdoor’s refurbished showroom at Richmond before learning the importance of attention to detail in design contracts. Ronen Atzmon from Atzmon & Co. solicitors detailed the essential requirements of a contract and the basic steps to take to get it right.

AILDM Director Stephen Read provided guidance on how to set appropriate fees for landscape design and the methods a small business should adopt to in setting fees.

The inaugural Horticultural & Gardening Festival was held in Melbourne in October celebrating the Australian outdoor lifestyle through talks, workshops and displays. Using the format established at MIFGS AILDM members again held a design clinic at the festival, educating the public about the process of design whilst providing a direct connection between AILDM members and potential clients.
AILDM congratulates designers Carolyn Priest and Ross Goodman won gold and bronze awards respectively for their display gardens at the festival.

Visit to Caribbean Gardens

In its 31st year, the monthly trade day at Caribbean Gardens is one of the most popular events for Victorian retailers and growers. An industry only event it was the destination for a visit by AILDM members in November.

The market is the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and provided the opportunity for members to view products not accessible to others.
Publications

AILDM’s quarterly publication LO (LANDSCAPE OUTLOOK) has remained a highly respected publication within the industry. It is sent to all members as one of their membership entitlements and to AILDM sponsors and supporters. It is also available on subscription through AILDM’s website.

Editor Louise McDaid has ensured that articles reflect current interests and trends. A number of AILDM members are also regular contributors to its content.

AILDM Members also contribute to a wide range of industry publications including Backyard and Outdoor Living magazines published by Universal Magazines. Regular AILDM Columns are written for industry association magazines by AILDM Publications Director Sue Harris.

AILDM’s brochure ‘DO YOU NEED A LANDSCAPE DESIGNER’ detailing the role of professional landscape designers is supplied to members to distribute to clients and Councils. An electronic version is also available to members to enable them to attach it to emails.
Honorary Fellow of AILDM

In 2015 AILDM’s National Council appointed Arthur Lathouris to the position of Honorary Fellow of AILDM. This honour was given in recognition of Arthur’s distinguished career in landscape design and commitment to promoting the objectives of the Institute.

Arthur has been designing gardens since he graduated from the Ryde School of Horticulture (with Honours) in 1985. With a strong sense of social and environmental awareness Arthur takes great care to consider the surrounding environment in his designs and makes time to help community groups and schools improve their environment. He aims to create gardens that are sustainable given the changing weather patterns while at the same time being a place of beauty for his clients.

Arthur has been the recipient of a number of AILDM design awards and in 2015 joined the judging panel for the National Landscape Design Awards.
Eleventh National Council of the Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers

AILDM members elected to the Eleventh National Council to manage and implement the goals and objectives of the Institute 2013-2015.

**President**
Steve Warner, Outhouse Design

**Director for AILDM Victoria**
Stephen Read, Stephen Read Landscape Design

**Vice President & Director for AILDM Victoria**
Ruth Czermak, Botanical Traditions

**Council Member for Victoria & CPD Director**
Meg Geary, MG Gardens

**Vice President & Director for AILDM Queensland**
Tobias Volbert, Playscape Creations

**Director for AILDM Queensland**
Paul Stein, Seed Landscapes

**Secretary & Awards Director**
Glenice Buck, Glenice Buck Designs

**NSW Events Director**
Julie Parker, GardenEssence

**Treasurer & hidden Design Festival Coordinator**
Karen Staunton-Ross, Outside Living

**Publications Director**
Sue Harris, Designs That Grow

**National Sponsorship & Marketing Director**
Fiona Ericsson, Sticks & Stones Landscape Design

**Student Liaison Officer – NSW**
Andrew Hewitt, Redgum Designs
Director for AILDM Queensland until 2014 – Natalie Watts, Branat Designs

Education Director until September 2015 – Penny Hand, TAFE NSI

Student Representatives

Holly Fergusson (NSW) & Amanda Reeves (QLD) were appointed as Student Representatives to promote the benefits of AILDM membership and AILDM events to TAFE students of landscape design.

The twelfth National Council will be elected at the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Institute on 10 December 2015.
20th Anniversary Celebrations end in Style

AILDM’s celebration of its first 20 years culminated with events in Melbourne, Brisbane & Sydney. In Melbourne members and friends gathered at the Auburn Hotel to recognise winners in the AILDM Landscape Design Awards and celebrate the end of a very successful year for members from Victoria.

In Brisbane members enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Wild Canary restaurant. A chance to relax and celebrate ahead a busy time preparing for the Queensland hidden Design Festival in early 2016.

Celebrations in Sydney included the AGM at which the AILDM National Council for 2015-2017 was elected. The event was held at Garden Life in St Peters, a relaxed and appropriate venue for landscape designers in which they could view fabulous products to use in garden designs. AILDM extends its thanks to Richard Unsworth and his staff for hosting this event and their warm hospitality.

Congratulations to the incoming Board Members:

Ruth Czermak  Meg Geary  Fiona Ericsson
Sue Harris  Mark Curtis  Craig MacDonald
Paul Stein  Tobias Volbert  Clare James
Several Council members did not stand for re-election. The thanks of AILDM members are extended to them for their years of commitment and dedication to furthering the interests of AILDM, its members and the landscape design industry:

Steve Warner   Karen Staunton-Ross   Julie Parker

Glenice Buck   Andrew Hewitt   Stephen Read
AILDM Sponsors

AILDM would like to acknowledge and thank its sponsors for their support in helping fund AILDM activities and the provision of locations and speakers for AILDM seminars and events.

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